

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 20590 210806Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W  
----- 085654

R 210721Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1029  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU  
DIA WASHDC  
COMJUSMAGTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20590

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PINS TH  
SUBJECT: FIRST INSURGENT ATTACK ON PROVINCIAL CAPITAL  
  
REF: SONGKHLA 175 (CONTROL 554)

FOLLOWING TELE BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE:

R 200400Z JUL 76  
FM AMCONSUL SONGKHLA  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 017

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 175

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH  
SUBJECT: FIRST INSURGENT ATTACK ON PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

SUMMARY: IN WHAT RTG AUTHORITIES DESCRIBE AS FIRST ATTACK ON  
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN HISTORY OF THAI INSURGENCY, ABOUT 40 CT  
ATTACKED A MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOL IN TRANG PROVINCE EARLY IN THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 20590 210806Z

MORNING OF JULY 15. OBJECTIVE OF RAID WAS CAPTURE OF WEAPONS AND

AMMUNITION STORED AT THE SCHOOL. TRANG POLICE WERE IN THE AREA OF THE ATTACK BUT CHOSE NOT TO OPPOSE CT BECAUSE THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE SOME TRANG STUDENTS MAY HAVE ASSISTED CT IN THE RAID. END SUMMARY

1. ATTACK BY ABOUT 40 CT, MOSTLY TEENAGERS, TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 0100 HOURS JULY 15 AT WICHIANMATU HIGH SCHOOL IN TRANG. SINCE JULY 12, ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA) HAD BEEN CONDUCTING BASIC MILITARY TRAINING FOR ABOUT 150 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL. WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TO BE USED IN PRACTICE FIRING HAD BEEN MOVED FROM AN AMMUNITION STORAGE BUILDING ELSEWHERE IN TRANG TO THE HIGHHSCHOOL THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 14.

2. INITIALLY CT SURROUNDED QUARTERS OF RTA TRAINING CONTINGENT AND DEMANDED THEY SURRENDER AND HAND OVER AMMUNITION. THEY REFUSED AND 15 MINUTE GUN BATTLE FOLLOWED DURING WHICH LT. COL KII SANGWAN-NGOEN, HEAD OF THE TRAINING GROUP, WAS WOUNDED. CT DEPARTED IN TWO TRUCKS WAITING FOR THEM WITHOUT CAPTURING WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION. THEY REPORTEDLY DROVE OFF TO THE NORTHEAST IN THE DIRECTION OF HUAI YOD DISTRICT.

3. ACCORDING TO HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WHO WITNESSED ATTACK, PROVINCIAL POLICE PATROL HEARD SHOOTING AND APPROACHED THE SCHOOL ONLY TO RETREAT WHEN THEY DISCOVERED A LARGE NUMBER OF CT THERE. POLICE THEN RADIOED FOR REINFORCEMENTS WHO DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER CT HAD FLED. INEFFECTIVE POLICE PERFORMANCE HAS LOWERED THEIR STOCK WITH TRANG RESIDENTS WHO DID NOT HOLD LOCAL GENDARMES IN MUCH ESTEEM BEFORE THE INCIDENT.

4. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE TRANG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG CT WHO ATTACKED THE TRAINING SCHOOL. TIMING OF ATTACK I.E. PRECISELY WHEN WEAPONS AND AMMO HAD BEEN MOVED TO THE TRAINING AREA INDICATES CT HAD INFORMATION FROM SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE SITUATION ALTHOUGH OTHERS COULD HAVE KNOWN OF AMMUNITION MOVEMENT. SHOULD REPORTS OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT BE CONFIRMED, RTG WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH DILEMMA OF BEING UNABLE TO MOVE AGAINST THEM WITHOUT RISKING WRATH OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS CLAIMING THEY WERE BEING VICTIMIZED, A RISK WHICH ON BALANCE RTG AUTHORITIES PREFER NOT TO TAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 20590 210806Z

5. FLTHOUGH CT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN CAPTURING AMMUNITIONS, THEY ACHIEVED AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY. INABILITY OF RTG SECURITY FORCES TO PREVENT ATTACK IN THE HEART OF PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, ABOUT 300 METERS FROM PROVINCIAL POLICE STATION AND 200 METERS FROM GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE DEMORALIZES TRANG RESIDENTS AND SERVES AS BOOST TO CT MORALE AND RECRUITMENT.

HAHILTON  
UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, PARAMILITARY FORCES, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO20590  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760280-0340  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760738/aaaabhn.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SONGKHLA 175  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FIRST INSURGENT ATTACK ON PROVINCIAL CAPITAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006